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**AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 94% enantiomeric excess.

Claims ~~2-42~~ Canceled

~~2~~ 43. (New) The compound according to claim 1, wherein the optical purity is at least 94% enantiomeric excess.

~~3~~ 44. (New) The compound according to claim 1 or 43, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

~~4~~ 45. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 98.4% enantiomeric excess.

~~5~~ 46. (New) The compound according to claim 45, wherein the optical purity is at least 98.4% enantiomeric excess.

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6 47. (New) The compound according to claim <sup>4</sup>45 or <sup>5</sup>46, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

7 48. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[<sup>4</sup>(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 99.8% enantiomeric excess.

8 49. (New) The compound according to claim <sup>7</sup>48, wherein the optical purity is at least 99.8% enantiomeric excess.

9 50. (New) The compound according to claim <sup>7</sup>48 or <sup>8</sup>49, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.

10 51. (New) Magnesium salt of (-)-5-methoxy-2-[[<sup>4</sup>(4-methoxy-3,5-dimethyl-2-pyridinyl)methyl]-sulfinyl]-1H-benzimidazole in an optical purity of at least about 99.9% enantiomeric excess.

11 52. (New) The compound according to claim <sup>10</sup>51, wherein the optical purity is at least 99.9% enantiomeric excess.

12 53. (New) The compound according to claim <sup>11</sup>51 or <sup>11</sup>52, wherein the compound is in crystalline form.